

Appl. No. : **10/553,376**
Filed : **October 19, 2005**

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the communication, Applicant elects to prosecute Group I, Claims 1-5. This election is made with traverse. The traversal is set forth below.

The expression "special technical features" means, in any one claim, the particular technical feature or features that define a contribution that the claimed invention considered as a whole makes over the prior art (PCT Rule 13.2). The special technical feature of the present invention is the use of a buffer containing a surfactant and a salt of a monovalent cation. Claims 1, 6, and 8 have been amended to clarify that the salt is a monovalent salt. Support for the amendment is found on page 5 of the present specification, second line from the bottom. DNAs from which PCR inhibitory substances are removed can be obtained rapidly and in high yield by dissolving a biological sample in a buffer containing surfactant and salt of a monovalent cation, heating the solution, and subjecting the heated solution to gel filtration.

Although Gomez-Marquez discloses Tris-HCl as salt, the salt of Gomez-Marquez is different from that of the present invention. Accordingly, Gomez-Marquez does not teach the special technical feature of the claimed invention. Furthermore, Gomez-Marquez does not describe the unexpected larger amount of amplified DNA obtained by PCR when the DNAs are extracted according to the presently claimed invention (see, for example, last paragraph of page 11). Accordingly, the present claims share a special technical feature not taught by Gomez-Marquez.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number appearing below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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